

Message Text

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64/13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PC-15 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OPR-02 RSR-01 /149 W

----- 107650

R 141430Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5403

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1220

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A T H R E E

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DM, (RODRIGUEZ, MAJOR RICHARD)

SUBJECT: MRGD FACES CRISIS

1. CABINET AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MET ALL DAY AUGUST 13 IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION. THEY ATTEMPTING RESOLVE CRISIS CAUSED BY PORT WORKERS DEMAND THAT MILITARY COMMISSAIRE, MAJOR RICHARD RODRIGUEZ, WHO HEADS PORT MANAGEMENT COMPANY, ODOMAP, BE DISMISSED. FOUR MEMBERS OF MRGD SUBMITTED RESIGNATIONS WHEN CABINET REFUSED TO SACK RODRIGUEZ (I.E., MIN PUB WORKS ATCHADE, MIN FOR AFF ALLADAYE, MIN ED BADJEGOUME, AND MIN PTT BEHETON). RESIGNATIONS REFUSED. PORT WORKERS HAVE RETURNED TO JOBS AFTER INITIAL WALKOUT,BUT ARE REPORTEDLY DOING NO WORK.

2. RODRIGUEZ, WHO HAS REPUTATION AS TROUBLE-MAKER,
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INITIALLY ATTEMPTED FORCE WORKERS BACK TO JOBS. HE WENT

TO PORT WITH SEVERAL SOLDIERS WHO WERE ARMED WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS. THEY CHASED DAHOMEAN PORT DIRECTOR AFTER LATTER FLED FROM OFFICE. RODRIGUEZ ALSO INSULTED MIN PTT BEHETBU IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION IN FRONT OF PORT DIRECTION COMMITTEE.

3. KEREKOU IS SUPPORTING RODRIGUEZ, WHO IS DESCRIBED AS ONE OF HIS CONFIDANTS. HE REPORTEDLY FEARS CONSEQUENCES OF TRADE UNIONIST SUCCESS IN CONFRONTATION WITH MILITARY. CABINET IS DIVIDED AND EMOTIONS RUNNING HIGH. THIN FACADE COVERING DIVISIONS AND ANTAGONISMS IN MILITARY IS SHOWING SOME CRACKS. NO DOUBT, KEREKOU WISHES AVOID SHARP DIVISION, AND WILL SEEK FACE-SAVING SOLUTION FOR BOTH RODRIGUEZ AND FOR MEMBERS OF CABINET WHO OPPOSE HIM. HOWEVER, SITUATION COULD DEVELOP INTO MORE SERIOUS CRISIS, AND MUST AFFECT SOLIDARITY OF MRGD NO MATTER HOW IT IS RESOLVED.

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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